



Robert Duane Fry

October 24, 1955 - March 27, 2025

Robert Duane Fry passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at Mid-Valley Hospital in Omak, Washington, at the age of 69.

A devoted partner, father, grandfather, and proud tribal member, Duane was known for his strong work ethic, generous heart, and unforgettable sense of humor. Born on October 24, 1955, to Marie Agnes (Moomaw) Fry and Robert (Bob) Lee Fry, Duane was raised in Omak with deep roots in the community. He was an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes, with heritage from the Lakes (Sinixt) band and family ties to the Umatilla tribe through his mother's lineage. He carried immense pride in his identity and culture throughout his life. Duane attended Wenatchee Valley College and Washington State University, where he studied forestry. Duane's career began on the front lines of Washington's wildlands, where he fought forest fires—work that reflected both his physical strength and bravery. He later built a long and respected career in management within the timber industry, serving as manager at Biles-Coleman Lumber Co., Omak Wood Products, and later Quality Veneer & Lumber Co.. Just before retirement, he worked at 12 Tribes Casino, where his dependability and calm presence made a lasting impression—stepping in without hesitation when emergencies arose, even administering CPR before first responders arrived. Outside of work, Duane found deep joy in the natural world—caring for horses with Margaret, gardening in their backyard, and watching birds from their patio in Omak. He

had a lifelong love of rodeo, inspired by his grandfather Leo Moomaw. In his teens through early twenties, he competed in bull riding and saddle bronc across Washington State. In later years, he continued that tradition from home, cheering on televised rodeos with Margaret by his side. He also loved settling in to watch Mariners baseball and Seahawks football, always with one of his dogs nearby. Above all, Duane was a devoted dad and a proud grandfather. He thought the world of his daughters—Amber McKinnon, Krystal Desjardins, and Melissa Fry—offering steady love, guidance, and a listening ear. He cherished his role as “Grandpa Fry” to his granddaughters, Kora Desjardins and Madison Fry-Williams, and took immense pride in watching them grow.

Duane is survived by his loving partner, Margaret Wilken; his daughters, Amber (Mike) McKinnon, Krystal (Derek) Desjardins, and Melissa Fry (Paul Wiens); his granddaughters, Kora and Madison; and his siblings, Doreen Vanetta and Gerald Fry (Katherine York). He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert (Bob) Lee Fry and Marie Agnes (Moomaw) Fry.

In the fall of 2021, Duane was diagnosed with lung cancer and faced the journey ahead with incredible courage and determination. He fought hard for more than three years, undergoing multiple procedures and treatments with quiet strength and resilience. Throughout it all, he remained hopeful, open to every option, and deeply grateful to Margaret for her unwavering love and care, as well as to his oncology team at Confluence Health in Omak.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations in Duane’s name to a local tribal or environmental organization that reflects his love for nature and his heritage.

Tribute Wall



“ *Godspeed Duane, former neighbor and good friend. Your family and friends will greatly miss you.*

Mike Nichols - April 11, 2025 at 06:07 PM



“ *Duane was a soft spoken, quiet person and was a member of the Omak class of '74. He was very much liked and a good friend to all. Our thoughts and condolences to his family from the Class of '74. Godspeed Duane.*

Richard Poole - April 11, 2025 at 11:16 AM



“ *We all grew up on Eastside, And we lived on the same street. Playing football, Baseball and Hide and seek. Cousins so close, we all did everything together. I remember Duane in Uncle Buds Barn with his guitar singing skip a rope. We all sat on hay bales. There were so many more. Camping, Swimming. You were loved Duane Fry*

Cathy Casseday - April 10, 2025 at 11:59 PM

CW

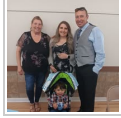
Still in shock. I thank you Duane for teaching me so much when the Tribe bought the mill and I was hired in HR. I'd never heard of you but knew your siblings. I'll never forget when my cell phone rang and you asked if I was ever going to stop by the Mill to meet the crew working hard to get CIPV major repairs done. I told you "when you get running water". Duane's response "we have porta potties". No thanks Duane I am not sharing those with an all male crew. Duane's knowledge was amazing in helping me & the Tribe at getting qualified quality employees who were willing to teach the tribal members the process of quality veneer & plywood (my son amongst them). Thank you Duane. I'm thankful our path of life crossed. You were appreciated and will forever be missed. RIP my friend.

Charlene "Sam" Wilson - April 11, 2025 at 12:37 AM

TM

Condolences to Margaret, and to Amber, Krystal and Melissa. When we were kids, Duane, Gerald and Doreen had this great dog named Prince. Prince was one of those dogs that had a smile for everyone. We'd be sitting in the shade outside on Omak Creek, and Prince would show up. We'd look for a car, but it was just Prince. Hi Prince, what are you doing here? It turned out, that Aunt Marie would tell Prince, "Go see Uncle Rich." And he'd take off from Eastside and walk/run the 3 miles to the Moomaw Ranch. We'd call the Frys, and they'd come later to pick up Prince. The way I figure, when Duane passed, Prince was sitting there smiling, tail wagging, waiting for him.

Tom Moomaw - April 12, 2025 at 12:48 PM



Condolences to Margaret, and to Amber, Krystal and Melissa. When we were kids, Duane, Gerald and Doreen had this great dog named Prince. Prince was one of those dogs that had a smile for everyone.

We'd be sitting in the shade

. Duane was not only my cousin he was my godfather. I will miss. We had so much fun growing up going camping we always had a block party. He taught me to ride a horse named peter pan. He was my hero growing up. You are with your oarents grandparents aunts and uncles and cousins rest in paradise. My sincere condolences to Condolences to Margaret, and to Amber, Krystal and Melissa. And my cousins Gerald , Katherine and Doreen

Tammy Lopez - April 14, 2025 at 10:12 PM